

A NEW SPECIES OF THE *MEDIORHYNCHUS* (ACANTHOCEPHALA: GIGANTORHYNCHIDAE) FROM THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD, *CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS* (VIGORS)<sup>1</sup>

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(With five text-figures)

Three immature and one mature males and eight females collected from the intestine of the Great Indian Bustard, *Choriotis nigriceps* (Vigors) caught at Pokaran (Jaisalmer District), Rajasthan, India during August to October, 1970 form the basis of the description given below.

***Mediorhynchus rajasthanensis* sp. nov.**

With characters of the genus. Sexual dimorphism very pronounced. Male somewhat swollen in the anterior region just behind the proboscis and without external segmentation. Mature female shows prominent external segmentation, attaining maximum width slightly behind mid-body. Proboscis receptacle, a double-walled muscular sac. Proboscis armed with 12 spiral rows of four hooks 100-120  $\mu$  in length and 16-20  $\mu$  in diameter and 30 spiral rows of 14-15 spines 20  $\mu$  in length.

MALE: 9.440<sup>3</sup> in length and 0.828 in maximum width. Proboscis 0.966  $\times$  0.540-0.612. Proboscis sheath 0.756-11.080  $\times$  0.396-0.468. A pair of unequal lemnisci, measuring 1.980-2.840  $\times$  0.144, each with 7 nuclei. Almost spherical brain, measuring 0.180, situated towards the posterior end of the proboscis, just in front of its junction with the body. Elliptical testes situated in posterior third of the body length. Anterior testis 0.684  $\times$  0.216, posterior testis 0.648  $\times$  0.216. Cement glands 8 in number, situated just behind the posterior testis. Seminal

vesicle 0.648  $\times$  0.126. The right side of the muscular cap of bursa is longer than the left side and measuring 0.306 in length. Bursa 0.306  $\times$  0.180, with maximum width at its anterior end.

FEMALE: 60-75 in length; 2.0-3.5 in width. External segmentation pronounced in middle part of the body whereas anterior part containing lemnisci devoid of external segmenta-

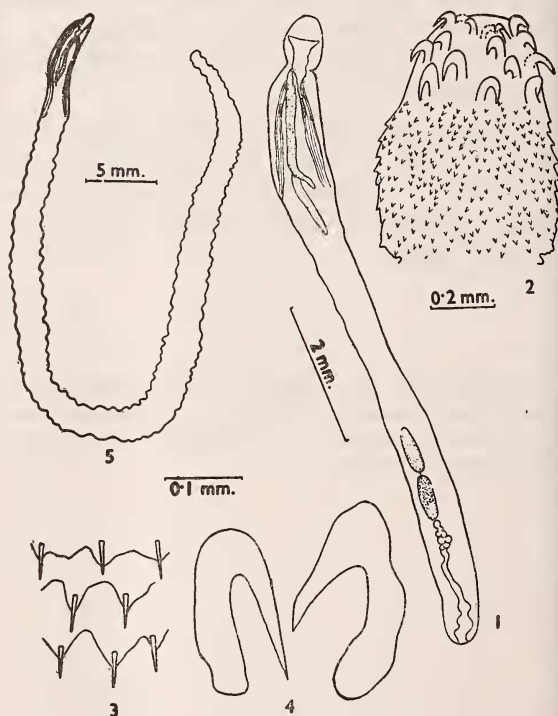


Fig. 1. *Mediorhynchus rajasthanensis* sp. nov., male; Fig. 2. Female; Fig. 3. Proboscis of *M. rajasthanensis*; Fig. 4. Proboscis hooks magnified; Fig. 5. Proboscis spines magnified.

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<sup>3</sup> All measurements in millimetres.

tion. Sometimes the outline may be undulating before becoming completely smooth in the posterior part. Ova  $0.062-0.081 \times 0.031-0.050$ .

#### DISCUSSION

*Mediorhynchus rajasthanensis* has the least number of proboscis hooks so far reported in the genus. The species is peculiar in its males having smooth body surface whereas the gravid females show marked pseudosegmentation. *M. rajasthanensis* resembles most closely *M. grande* (Van Cleave 1916) in the matter of proboscis hooks but has more spines compared to *M. grande*.

HOST: Great Indian Bustard, *Choriotis nigri-*

*ceps* (Vigors).

LOCATION: Intestine.

TYPE-LOCALITY: Pokaran (Jaisalmer District), Rajasthan. Type specimens to be duly deposited in the National Collection in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

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#### REFERENCE

- VAN CLEAVE, H. J. (1916): Acanthociphala of the genera *Centronhynchus* and *Mediorhynchus* (new genus) from North American birds. *Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc.* 35:221-232.

### A NEW SPECIES OF CESTODE OF THE GENUS *SCHISTOMETRA* (CESTODA: DAVAINIIDAE: IDIOGENINAE) FROM THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD, *CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS* (VIGORS)<sup>1</sup>

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(With four text-figures)

#### INTRODUCTION

Skrjabin (1914), Baer & Fain (1955) and Yamaguti (1959) have maintained the validity of the genus *Schistometra* Cholodkovsky (1912). Yamaguti (1959) transferred *Bertia pinguis* Fuhrmann (1904) to the genus *Ophry-*

*ocotyloides* Fuhrmann (1920) on the basis of a persistent uterus; and accepted only two valid species of the genus *Schistometra*, *S. conoides* and *S. macqueeni*. Another species is described here.

During August, 1970 two birds of the host species *Choriotis nigriceps*, were caught by the authorities of the Rajasthan Forest Department but they did not survive in captivity and were

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